



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

342 North Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2507

(860) 586-7506 Fax: (860) 586-7550 Web site: www.cpcanet.org

Testimony to the Committee on General Law

Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

February 26, 2009

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro, members of the committee, we submit testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

We support **RB 6519, AN ACT CONCERNING PAWNBROKERS, PRECIOUS METAL AND STONE DEALERS AND THE RECOVERY OF STOLEN JEWELRY AND PRECIOUS METALS AND STONES**, which will aid in recovery of stolen jewelry.

Burglars and other thieves routinely use pawnshops and precious-metal dealers to market the fruits of their crimes. Innocent citizens are victimized twice--once by the thief, a second time by the dealer who re-sells, transfers, melts down, or otherwise alters the victim's jewelry. Items of sentimental, personal, or financial value may be beyond reclamation before their theft is even noticed.

Pawnbrokers are already required to keep records of their transactions. The bill would require them to include a photograph of the client and of any jewelry pawned. These records would be held at least 60 days.

Precious-metal dealers are already required to keep records of their transactions as well. The bill would also require them to retain purchased goods for 45 days before resale or transfer.

The photos would aid in identification of the stolen goods and of the people selling them. The retention period will allow time for victims to discover and report the theft, and for police to gather and disseminate the description of the items and to check the various re-sale establishments.

Reputable dealers take precautions to avoid accepting and re-selling hot property. A statutory requirement would ensure that honest dealers are not disadvantaged by unscrupulous competitors.

We appreciate the committee's interest in protecting the public and aiding law enforcement.

###